

1Repeated observations of Cetaceans and Carcharhiniformes associations in the Red Sea

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9Shark-cetacean aggregations and associations of false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) with other
10cetaceans have been reported previously (e.g. [Heithaus 2001](#), [Baird et al. 2008](#)). However, this is the first
11description of non-aggressive associations of *P. crassidens* with non-cetaceans.

12Here we report encounters of *P. crassidens* associated with silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) at
13different reef sites of the Farasan Banks, Red Sea, Saudi Arabia in 2014. On August 13 a group of 17+ *P.*
14*crassidens* (2-4m body length; including one juvenile, <2m) (Fig.1a) approached a dive boat and spent
15about 45 minutes interacting with ~20 snorkelers at “Dohra Island Reef” (19° 49'16.80"N, 39° 54'6.75"E).
16The group was accompanied by 6+ *C. falciformis* (1.6-2m, Fig.1b), which remained in close proximity
17(~15m) to snorkelers and whales for about 20 minutes (Fig.1c).

18On August 19, a group of 15 divers was approached by 8 *P. crassidens* individuals (2-4m; including 1
19juvenile <2m), followed by 2 *C. falciformis* (1.6-2m) at “Old Fantasy Island Reef” (19° 38'36.39"N, 40°
201'10.66"E). Both encounters lasted for 10 and 2 minutes, respectively. During both occasions neither
21whales nor sharks displayed signs of distress or rejection towards each other's presence. An additional
22sighting of a *P. crassidens* group accompanied by *C. falciformis* on June 18 in the southern Farasan Banks
23was reported by the dive base (Dream-Divers, KSA), but no details are available.

24The possible benefits of associations between false killer whales and silky sharks remain unclear and the
25aggregations might be random without direct benefits for the different species. However, shared feeding
26grounds might provide an explanation for the presence of multi-species groups. On August 13, an
27individual of *P. crassidens* carried a prey fish (supplementary video). Even though no feeding was directly

28observed, prey indicates a previous hunting event and may suggest the possibility of a foraging association
29(*sensu* Lukoschek and McCormick, 2002).

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50FIGURE LEGEND

51Fig.1. (a) *Pseudorca crassidens*, 19.08.14 (b) *Carcharhinus falciformis*, 13.08.14 (c) *P. crassidens* (front),
52*C. falciformis* (background), 13.08.14.